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Message Text

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40
ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 INT-08 TRSE-00

FRB-02 XMB-07 FEA-02 DRC-01 /076 W
---------- 001227
R 200950Z APR 74
FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3813
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL DURBAN

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0219

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EIND, EMIN, SF
SUBJ: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW COPPER REFINERY IN CAPE PROVINCE

1. ON APRIL 17 TSUMEB CORP LTD AND OKIEP COPPER CO ANNOUNCED PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF LARGEST COPPER REFINERY IN SOUTH AFRICA AT EERSTE RIVER INDUSTRIAL TOWNSHIP NEAR CAPE TOWN, WITH OUTPUT OF 120,000 METRIC TONS OF CATHODE COPPER ANNUALLY FROM BLISTER COPPER PRODUCED AT COMPANIES' SMELTERS IN TSUMEB, S.W.A. AND NABABEEP, CAPE PROVINCE.

2. ACCORDING LOCAL PRESS REPORTS CONSTRUCTION WILL BEGIN THIRD QUARTER 1974 WITH COMPLETION DUE LATE 1976 OR EARLY 1977. COST ESTIMATED BETWEEN 30 AND 45 MILLION DOLLARS, WITH FINANCING ARRANGED UNDER PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN TSUMEB AND OKIEP. (NEWMONT MINING CORP OF U.S. STATED HAVE 29.6 PERCENT INTEREST IN TSUMEB AND 57.5 PERCENT INTEREST IN OKIEP. AMERICAN METAL CLIMAX INC HAS 57.5 PERCENT INTEREST IN TSUMEB AND 18 PERCENT IN OKIEP).

3. TOTAL SOUTH AFRICAN MINING PRODUCTION OF COPPER IN 1972 WAS 162,000 METRIC TONS OF WHICH SOUTH AFRICA EXPORTED 78,756 METRIC TONS REFINED COPPER AND 49,930 TONS UNREFINED, AND FOR FIRST 8
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MONTHS 1973, MINNING PRODUCTION WAS 116,000 METRIC TONS, WITH

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EXPORTS OF 38,183 TONS REFINED AND 49,216 UNREFINED. ANNUAL RATE OF GROWTH FOR EXPORTS OF ORE AND REFINED PRODUCT 1968-1980 HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT 15.5 PERCENT.

4. FOR COMMERCE. BALTIMORE AIRCOIL CO. INC. HAS JOINT VENTURE LICENSING PARTNER HERE WHICH HAS QUALIFICATIONS AND KEEN INTEREST IN SUPPLYING COOLING TOWERS WHICH COULD BE MANUFACTURED AS PART OF PROJECT'S LOCAL CONTENT AND REQUESTS U.S. COMPANY IN BALTIMORE BE KEPT INFORMED OF ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO COMMERCE. INFORMATION ALREADY OBTAINED INDICATES REFINERY CONSTRUCTION WILL BE TURNKEY PROJECT WITH SUBSTANTIAL IMPORT CONTENT AND THAT MAJOR U.S. ENGINEERING AND CONSTRUCTION COMPANY (PERHAPS BECHTEL) HAS BEEN ENGAGED OR IS EXPECTED OBTAIN TURNKEY CONTRACT.
GAMON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Event:
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To: STATE
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